

end. Mrs. Anderson has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed her over her lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Mrs. Bessie Mae Rudolph Anderson as she and her family prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING ST ANN'S SCHOOL 148 YEARS OF EDUCATING YOUTH

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St Ann's School of Hornell, New York for educating the youth of the 29th district for 148 years. On Wednesday, June 20th, St Ann's school closed its doors for the final time, bringing to a close a long legacy of providing a strong Catholic education to the children of the Southern Tier.

Since its founding in 1863, St Ann's School has committed itself not just to the development of the skills necessary for learning, but to the development of the whole child. Operating in an atmosphere permeated by Christian values, St Ann's School has long provided families with an affordable option to instill in their children the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual values necessary to become outstanding citizens.

It has been my privilege to represent St Ann's School for the past 2 years, and although I regret the decision that was made to close the school, I am truly thankful for its deep commitment to the education of the children of the 29th District of New York.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRI- TION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding as the House Agriculture Committee marks up H.R. 6083, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management (FARMM) Act.

As families struggle to meet their basic needs during the economic downturn, the SNAP short-term food assistance program has become more important than ever. With over 14 percent of American households suffering from food insecurity, SNAP works to ensure that children, unemployed workers, and seniors have the nutrition and extra help they need. SNAP provides essential support for 46.3 million Americans (nearly half of which are children) in 22 million different households. Washington State alone has nearly 1 million people that rely on SNAP benefits.

Changes proposed in the FARMM Act to end broad-based categorical eligibility would hurt low-income families in Washington State. An estimated 80,000 Washingtonians that currently receive SNAP benefits would not qualify or would be dropped from the program. Fur-

ther, an estimated 280,000 low-income children in SNAP-eligible households that currently have access to free or reduced school meals would no longer have access. Further, FARMM Act provisions to limit which Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) payments can apply to SNAP benefits, would further limit benefits received through SNAP. These changes would disproportionately impact children, seniors, and working families. In these trying economic times, many Washingtonians cannot afford these cuts.

Congress must stand up for SNAP funding, as the program plays a crucial role in our economic recovery. The best way to lower government spending on SNAP is not through major cuts, but by continuing to help families in need. In Washington State, the average SNAP recipient receives benefits for only nine months. In these tough economic times, SNAP is providing much-needed support in getting families back on their feet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues protect SNAP funding as the FARMM Act goes through the legislative process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to correct an error I made in voting recently.

Rollcall vote 430, the twelfth Broun amendment, proposed to reduce the Public Housing Operating fund by \$56 million. Because that particular series of votes included six successive amendments by Representative BROUN of Georgia, and these votes were shortened to two minutes in length, I mistakenly lost track of the order of amendments and voted "yes" on rollcall 430. I ask that the RECORD reflect I intended to vote "no" on rollcall 430.

CONGRATULATING ARENA PHARMACEUTICALS AND THE FDA

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arena Pharmaceuticals and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on their work to approve a new weapon in the battle against obesity—Belviiq. This is the first new drug for the treatment of this serious medical condition to be approved by the FDA in 13 years. According to the FDA, this innovative therapy works by activating the serotonin 2C receptor in the brain. Activation of this receptor may help a person eat less and feel full after eating smaller amounts of food.

Mr. Speaker, the health of our nation needs to be a top priority, and with over 93 million Americans impacted by obesity this type of innovation needs to be supported. The FDA's approval of Belviiq is not only a step towards improving the lives of many Americans and significantly reducing healthcare costs, but it can also result in job retention and job growth in San Diego. Breakthroughs, like Belviiq from

the San Diego life science community, create jobs in their search for innovations to ensure a healthier future. Arena Pharmaceuticals invested over \$1.5 billion dollars to get to this point, much of which was spent in California. In addition, all pivotal clinical trials were conducted here in the United States of America. By fostering cutting edge life science research, we can bring economic invigoration to San Diego and the U.S. while alleviating current medical ailments like obesity.

The life science industry employs over 2 million Americans, with the San Diego cluster being one of the largest at approximately 40,000 employees and 700 companies. Through successes in this industry with promising advancements like Belviiq, more companies and research projects can emerge in the region to generate job opportunities. San Diego biotechnology is internationally renowned for important discoveries in the medical field. Belviiq adds another distinction to San Diego biotechnology as our region is directly contributing to remedying obesity in the United States, which costs the nation \$190 billion per year. These medical breakthroughs not only help our local businesses, but also contribute to a healthier America.

Currently, less than one third of Americans have a healthy body weight. Americans across all social and economic groups are consequently affected by medical issues caused by being overweight. This recent innovation can allow us to look towards a future in which less Americans are affected by this serious medical condition and other weight-related illnesses. As doctors have been asking for more research into new treatments for weight-loss, Belviiq begins to answer these calls. Now we have taken the first steps in a new approach to obesity and will hopefully see new results.

Congratulations to Mr. Jack Lief of Arena Pharmaceuticals. The work of this innovative company will not only be felt in San Diego but across this great country.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGIA PEANUT COMMISSION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, with the discussion of a new farm bill heating up, I would like to pay special recognition to the Georgia Peanut Commission. In August, the Commission will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. Since 1961, they have successfully improved the profitability of peanuts and peanut products through research, promotion, and education, creating a better market for Georgia peanut farmers.

When the Georgia Peanut Commission began, farmers who harvested 475,000 acres of peanuts averaged yields of 1,200 pounds per acre. Last year, farmers who harvested the same 475,000 acres averaged over 3,500 pounds per acre, an increase of 350 percent. Due to their efforts, Georgia peanut yields are consistently higher than other states; possess superior quality, and contribute an estimated 2 billion dollars to the Georgia economy.

In fact, Georgia is number 1 in the national production of peanuts with nearly 50 percent of the annual crop.